

10
E S S A Y

ON THE
Present high Price of Provisions.

Wherein is shewn, and fully explained,
The particular CAUSES that enhance the
Price of each Species of them.

PARTICULARLY
CORN, BUTCHER'S MEAT, CHEESE
and BUTTER;

DISTINGUISHING
The natural and unavoidable CAUSES, from
those that are artificial and remediable,

WITH
Proper and suitable REMEDIES for
preventing the same.

By J O S. W I M P E Y.

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E S S A Y

ON THE

Produce high Price of Provisions.

Written in French, and fully explained.

The particular Cases that occasion the
Prices of each Species of Food.

By J. B. BOUTIN.

CORN, BUTCHER'S MEAT, CHEESE,
and BUTTER.



The Author's Address is
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A N
E S S A Y

O N T H E

Present high Price of Provisions.



WANT and distress naturally produce discontent and complaint, and if not timely redressed, or considerably alleviated, feuds, insurrections, and rebellious mobbings. The high price provisions have been at for a long time, has been the cause of much popular grievance, and uneasiness, and an uncommon spirit has been exerted by many,

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with

with the humane view of removing, or at least in a good measure diminishing the weight of so dreadful an evil. How far their laudable endeavours may meet with success time only can shew ; but be the success what it may, men actuated by motives of humanity and goodness, with an intention to promote the happiness of society, deserve the most grateful acknowledgments of the public in general, and more particularly of the poor, whose relief and well being it more materially concerns.

This, like all other subjects, when it becomes general, engages the attention, not only of those who make writing a business ; but of many others, who act upon the more worthy motives of a sincere desire of communicating something which may prove beneficial to the community.

As mankind are greatly divided in opinion, with respect to most things which do not admit of pure demonstration ; so with respect to the high price
of

of provisions, its causes, and remedies, they are in no sense better agreed. Much have been said and wrote, much pains have been taken, and many of all degrees engaged in pursuit of measures to remove the evil; but after so much pains, labour, and time bestowed upon it, we seem much in the same unhappy situation, with little, or no variation of prices for the better; consequently the distress of the poor is equally great, and their discontent and complaints increased in proportion to the sad apprehensions they entertain of things never growing better. Of all evils, the present are ever the worst; and upon a comparison, the past, in the opinion of man, had always some attendant circumstances which afforded some relief, which the present times are strangers to.

The high price of provisions are either owing to causes which 'tis not in the power of man to counter-act; or if not to such, to others, which mankind have not been so happy as to trace out; or if they have, that regard has not been

paid to them by the public, which their usefulness, and merit entitle them to.

The design then of this Essay, is to examine the several opinions concerning this matter, and the reasoning used for their support. To distinguish and separate the causes which are natural and unavoidable, and their effects therefore irremediable; from those which are the effects of artifice and management, and therefore curable by the prudent interposition of Government. And, lastly, to endeavour to point out the most probable means of paving the way to redress at least in some measure, the evil complained of.

Before we proceed to the examination of the opinion of others, it may not be amiss to premise, that cheapness and dearness, are relative terms, and depend upon plenty and scarcity, as their certain and immediate cause. Indeed they are so closely connected, that one can hardly have an idea of plenty, but that of cheapness accompanies it; nor of scarcity
but

but the idea of dearness forces itself upon the mind. From hence it clearly follows, that, whatever acts as a means to render provisions plenty, has an infallible tendency to render them cheap; and whatever measures renders them scarce, most certainly enhances their price and renders them dear. The first must be considered as a measure operating for the good of society, and the latter as being productive of that distress and misery, which constantly attend on scarcity and want.

These considerations furnish an infallible rule by which to judge properly of the merit of any measure proposed; for the attainment of so valuable a purpose. If its operations ensure plenty, its goodness cannot be doubted; but if scarcity, it should be carefully avoided, as the bane of human felicity.

In pursuance of my proposal, let me now proceed to examine the opinion of others, on this important business. The first performance I shall take into consideration,

consideration, is, "A Letter to a Member
 "of Parliament on the present high
 "Price of Provisions." I do not begin
 with this, because in my own opinion
 it is the most worthy; but in deference
 to the opinion of Gentlemen, who by
 profession are the monthly arbiters of
 literary merit, who speak of it, as con-
 taining "useful and pertinent hints on
 "so important a subject," and call it "a
 "sensible tract, which contains several
 "new thoughts, which merit the most
 "serious consideration, and that the
 "scheme he offers so far as they have
 "had leisure to consider it, appears to be
 "very rational and practicable."

Doubtless the book must have merit,
 or they could not have perceived it;
 I therefore lament my dulness in not
 being able to discover the least part of
 it, I am persuaded however much is due
 to their generosity, I therefore am led
 to hope, that this well meant essay will
 meet with some degree of candour when
 hereafter they may favour it with a
 friendly examination.

But

But to the task. I pass over the first six pages, as containing little to our purpose, and begin with p. 7. where speaking of the causes of the high prices of corn and other provisions, which arise out of the circumstances of the times. The first cause he alledges is, "The increase of monied property among us. This cause, tho' it must be considered as an increase of national strength, is certainly productive of internal partial poverty for a season: Because it necessarily occasions a proportionable decrease of the specific value of money."

This appears to me to be strange kind of reasoning for a *sensible* writer. It seems to be saying, the more a nation increases in strength (by which is meant riches) the greater is its poverty; a glaring contradiction! But what is meant by monied property? If specie or cash, I am afraid the increase he mentions is no more than a golden dream. Perhaps a time cannot be mentioned within these forty years, when 'twas at a lower ebb. But admitting the increase of monied property

perty to be as great as the author pleases, by what balance does he ascertain the proportionable decrease of the specific value of money? should he make provisions, or the necessaries of life the measure, or balance to ascertain the specific value of money; as money is used to estimate the value of them; the specific value of money would fluctuate as much as the price of provisions, and the labour of man would at least be as correct a method to ascertain the specific value of money, as provisions of any kind; which would totally prevent the internal partial poverty apprehended by the author.

The truth is, there is a near connection or alliance between monied property and land. No considerable alteration can happen to the first, but the latter is affected thereby. An increase of money reduces its interest, and raises the value of land. A decrease of money produces effects precisely the reverse. But this is by no means the case in respect to provisions, any farther, than

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an increase of money may be the means of promoting luxury, and thereby of increasing consumption, and making them proportionably scarcer. But that would plainly be the effect of scarcity, and not of the decrease of the specific value of money. According to the rule before established, cheapness and dearness are produced by plenty and scarcity, and these depend upon the proportion, the quantity of the commodity bears to the demand there is for such commodity. If the market is over stocked, and the demand is not sufficient to take off the quantity, the price must necessarily be low, be the state of monied property what you please; and *vice versa*, if the demand greatly exceeds the quantity, no art or management, or circumstance of monied property can keep down the price.

The second cause assigned appears to me as contrary to reason and experience as the first. Plenty of money does not “constrain manufacturers to give low wages to the labourers they employ.”

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Neither

Neither are low wages the cause of the
 “debasement of the staple and work-
 “manship, and depreciation at foreign
 “markets.” For our most potent rivals in
 trade, do not pay a third, in some goods
 not above a sixth for manufacturing
 that we do; tho’ provisions are full as
 dear there as here. Besides, ’tis quite
 a mistake to suppose our manufac-
 tures are debased, and the workmanship
 slighted when prices are low, and pro-
 visions high. Necessity effects then,
 what reason, duty, and interest pleads
 for in vain, when trade is brisk, goods
 in demand and wages advanced; espe-
 cially if provisions happen to be cheap.
 The workman then commences master,
 and must be suffered to act as his vi-
 cious caprice directs, or the manufacturer
 may do the whole of the business himself.
 Ask any manufacturer in Lancashire,
 whether his manufactures are more per-
 fectly made, when he is forced to ad-
 vance the workman’s wages beyond
 what is reasonable, or he can afford;
 or when the slackness of trade requires he
 should lower their wages to enable him to
 manu-

manufacture at all. He will tell you, goods made at such times are not only cheaper, but better in quality by ten per cent. at least. And this I have been an eye witness to more than once.

That foreigners manufacture their goods at far less expence than the English is a melancholy truth; but not because money is plentier here than it is there; nor because provisions are cheaper there than they are here. The cause is the different manners of the people. A Frenchman would be as well content with a piece of bread and an onion, or half a sprat, and a draft of water or poor cyder, as an Englishman would with the same quantity of much finer bread, and a pound or two of beef, or half a shoullder of mutton, and a pot or two of porter. A nation whose miserable police suffers the labouring part of its people to wallow in idleness and drunkenness, must never expect to cope in trade with a people, where care, diligence, and the most persevering frugality is rendered absolutely necessary. Perhaps

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there

there is not in the world so dissolute, idle, and drunken a set of men, as the labouring or working manufacturers of England, and whose families are so truly miserable. Not through low wages, not through dearness of provisions; but from spending two thirds of their time in an alehouse, never working but when compelled by absolute necessity. Wages and provisions are both much too often out of the question; there are thousands of instances of workmen's being able to get from 20 to 50 shillings a week, whose selves and families are the most deplorable objects of poverty and distress, one can possibly conceive. A toleration of this sort, carries with it an idea of reproach upon the government where it is permitted to exist; and this is an evil, upon the removal of which national prosperity, and the happiness of the populace absolutely depend.

Let me be understood. I should be very sorry to be thought to wish any kind of hardship to the poor. The honest, the industrious poor have not

a more hearty sincere well wisher than myself. But to permit them to exercise the most unbounded licentiousness, argues neither more wisdom or kindness in government, than 'twould in a parent to indulge a froward child with the amusement of edge tools, wherewith to destroy himself. But let us return to our author, who

In the next place observes, " that the
 " manufacturers of corn for home con-
 " sumption, especially the two great
 " branches (brewery and distillery) are
 " influenced in like manner—For if the
 " prices of grain be enormous, malster,
 " brewer, and distiller are alike discour-
 " aged; and it may reasonably be
 " feared, that the manufactures will be
 " debased, consumption lessened, and
 " government suffer by loss of reve-
 " nue."

Strange indeed! that so many evils should follow an increase of money. A circumstance which has always been deemed the surest mark of national prosperity,

sperity, and the happiness of individuals. However, it must be allowed to be *a new thought*, and if justly founded, to merit the most serious consideration; but I am so dull, that I cannot discover it to be either an *useful or pertinent hint*, or the least mark of a *sensible* writer.* But should an increase of money raise the prices of grain to an enormous height, and discourage the business of the malster, brewer and distiller, as the author asserts, why should it be feared that the manufactures will be debased, consumption lessened, and government suffer by loss of revenue? I would beg leave to ask the author a question, if what he *fears* should happen, would the community be gainers, or losers thereby? Should gin drinking, drunkenness, and sloth and idleness be restrained, and the consumption of spirits and strong beer be thereby lessened; and should sobriety, frugality and industry take place; would these be consequences that

* Monthly Review for March, p. 257.

need to be *feared*; or such as in which the community would have great cause to rejoice? As to the loss of revenue it deserves not to be named. I hope no good, I am sure no wise man ever wished to support the state at the expence of the health, virtue and happiness of its people. A species of policy truly Mandevillian, calculated only for the infernal regions. But I aver the revenue need not suffer thereby, for what it might be deficient in those branches, might be amply made good by others, and the people beyond comparison better able to bear them.

I deny, that *by the increase of money, the price of every article of family expence is unavoidably enhanced*; but I allow, *every attempt to reduce the prices to such as were known twenty or thirty years ago, would be vain and futile*, but for reasons very different from the authors. It would be like attempting to demolish or pull down a house, which had never been built, a foolish attempt indeed! for upon examination I find, that thirty
years

years ago, say in the years 1740 and 1741, the average price of bread corn was as high, as the highest price it has been at any hour of this dear time. In the years 1752 and 1753 'twas nearly the same, and in the years 1756, 57 and 58, the average price was considerably higher, than the highest price has been now.

But what follows is very extraordinary, p. 9. “Nor can any measure be
 “devised for stopping the progress of
 “dearness, I do not say scarcity (for
 “this cause alone will occasion dearth,
 “without the aid of scarcity) except
 “a total suppression of every branch of
 “foreign commerce, where the balance
 “is in favour of Great Britain—an
 “idea which surely cannot find harbour
 “in the breast of any man.” Such is
 the malignant power of an increase of
 money in this gentleman’s opinion, that
 nothing can stop the progress of *dear-*
ness, nay this cause alone will occasion
dearth, without the aid of scarcity. But
 what is all this but a heap of contra-
 dictions,

dictions, I had almost said nonsense?
 Can any man form an idea of *dearth*,
 in the midst of plenty? And are not
 the ideas of *dearth* and *scarcity* necessa-
 rily connected? I can as easily conceive
 body without extension, or figure, as I
 can dearth without scarcity. The amount
 then of his reasoning here, is as follows.
 Foreign commerce, where the balance is
 in favour of Great Britain is the source
 of an increase of money. An increase
 of money without the aid of *scarcity*
 will occasion dearth, and nothing can
 stop it, except a total suppression of
 every branch of such foreign commerce.
 —“ An idea which surely cannot find
 “ harbor in the breast of any man.”
 To suppress a trade, the balance of which
 is in our favour, and attended with
 an increase of money, would be justly
 deemed the effect of extreme folly or
 madness in any one who is not master
 of the secret here found out, viz. that
 an increase of money is the inevitable
 cause of *dearths* and *dearth*, the greatest
 calamity that can possibly befall a people.
 But the *sensible* author having made this
 D discovery,

discovery, the idea of suppressing such a trade will surely be properly harboured in his breast, though it should be denied a place in the breast of every other man. For how desireable soever an increase of money may be to mankind in general, a man who is persuaded that dearth unavoidably accompanies it, would very consistently take care to avoid it, and the means which produces it.

But the author has other schemes in contemplation. “Sensible and practicable remedies and expedients which will so comport with our commercial interest, as at once to support the landed interest by enabling farmers, labourers, manufacturers and merchants to accommodate themselves to the times, since the times will not bend to their convenience.”

To redress the clamours and complaints of the people, the author proposes by parliamentary interposition to establish a modus of bounty on exportation to

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encourage the growth of corn, and preserve mediocrity of prices. In order to this, he proposes, to abrogate entirely the present fixed bounty of five shillings per quarter on exportation, and to establish another modus, which is to operate as a counterpoize to the prices. The abrogating the present bounty is undoubtedly a proper measure; which I think has been fully and clearly proved in several pamphlets not long since published.* But the establishing the modus recommended in its room, would be greatly increasing the evil; and a counterpoize to nothing but a foreign trade, the balance of which is in our favour; for let the increase of money by means of such trade be what you please, the decrease by means of such a modus of bounty would probably swallow up and annihilate it. Such a modus would starve the labourer, impoverish the manufac-

* Thoughts upon several Interesting Subjects, Crowder. A Defence of ditto in Answer to Young, ditto.

turer, and render the merchant useless. Nobody could be advantaged by it but the farmer, and the land owner, neither of whom stand in need of it; the first has been enriched by the modern great improvements of his art, and the surprising advance in the price of all kinds of produce, and the land owner begins to share the advantages in the very considerable advance of rent. These are not probable opinions, but facts, capable of the clearest and fullest demonstration.

The new modus proposed is, when wheat is under 30s. per quarter to allow a bounty of 8s. per quarter; from 30s. to 32s. 6s; from 32s. to 36s. 4s; from 36s. to 40s. 2s; from 40s. to 44s. no bounty; when above 44s. no exportation; at or above 48s. free importation.

Such a modus as this being once established, would subject us to all the distress and misery, 'tis possible for scarcity, want, and dearth to inflict. 'Tis astonishing such a modus should be recommended

recommended to the public, as a means to redress the clamours and complaints of the people, occasioned by the dearth of provisions, at a time, when almost all Europe have felt the deepest miseries of dearth and famine; from the effects of which, they are not yet recovered; at a time, that the Legislature foresaw approaching danger, and wisely suspended the bounty, tho' corn was then at four shillings per bushel, and at a time, when it must be clear to all the world, that the prudent measure of discontinuing the bounty, when even at that moderate price, preserved us from the miserable fate which befell our neighbours, and preserved the lives of thousands of our people who otherwise must have perished for want of bread.

But in order to examine this business thoroughly, let us suppose the next harvest to be a plentiful one, and that in consequence thereof the price of wheat is reduced to 24s. per quarter. If the modus recommended should be established, the bounty then would amount
to

to £ 33. per cent. upon the value, and therefore a foreigner might purchase three quarters of English wheat for the same money, that a native must give for two for home consumption, and consequently a manufacturer in France, might buy three pounds of bread made of English wheat, for the same money nearly, as a manufacturer in England must pay for two; and consequently, as bread is almost the whole support of a French manufacturer, which stands him in any thing, he can afford from this single circumstance to work for half the wages an English manufacturer can do. A circumstance one would imagine, the bare mention of which, would for ever damn a modus so palpably ruinous to a manufacturing nation.

But this circumstance, ruinous as it is to our foreign trade, is far from being the greatest evil such a modus would bring upon us. 'Twould put it in the power of neighbouring nations to make us dependent on them for our daily bread. If views of enmity did not lead them

them to distress us upon principles of policy; commercial views in point of interest could not suffer an opportunity to escape, which must be attended with immense advantages bestowed upon them by our folly, and at our sole expence.

To explain this, let us suppose as before, that the price of wheat is only 24s. per quarter, that our neighbours are thereby tempted to buy of us, to the amount of three millions sterling; that the next harvest proves also a very plentiful one; that however by means of the very large exports the preceding year, wheat is advanced to 30s. per quarter; foreign customers notwithstanding purchase again to the amount of a second three millions. Here would be six millions received for corn exported, which is a very large sum, and supposed by many to be a very clear proof of the propriety and utility of the modus, to which the bringing so much money into the Kingdom is wholly ascribed. The whole amount of the exports

ports is six millions, the bounty on the same is two millions, which being deducted, leaves a balance of four millions, which is the sum England receives for six millions worth of corn. Let us suppose the next, or the third year to be a very unseasonable one, and not to produce half the quantity necessary for the year's consumption. The stock on hand must be very low on account of the large exports the two preceding years. This would infallibly advance the price to at least double; the ports would then be opened, and free importation permitted. England then must pay the current price, and be glad to get it so. Let us suppose then the same quantity is imported, and at double the price, the clear loss to the nation then in the two years exports, would be just eight millions. It cannot be a question with any man in his senses, whether any measure for carrying on so ruinous a trade can be a proper one; nor can it be a question if the case as here stated be a possible one, for that is self-evident. The only question is, whether
it

it be a probable case? to which I answer in the affirmative, and upon the surest grounds. What in the common and usual course of things has often happened, 'tis exceedingly probable will, and morally certain may happen again. Whoever will be at the pains to examine the history of the corn trade, from the commencement of the bounty to the present time, will find it has been no very unusual thing, for the price of corn at some times, to be double what it has been at others; and that at no great distance of time, often a few years only intervening. For instance, in or about the year 1755, England bought the same corn, or corn of no better quality it sold but twelve months before, at an advanced price of £ 85. per cent. and the same corn it sold but eighteen months before at £ 100 per cent. besides the loss of bounty, amounting together to £ 120. or £ 130. per cent. A circumstance so scandalous to the policy, and so injurious to the interest of the nation, should be ever before the eyes of the advocates of the bounty.* What-

* See p. 48. of a Defence of Thoughts upon several Interesting Subjects, Crowder.

ever might be the propriety and utility of granting a bounty at first; it has not only long since ceased to be any, but has been a most injurious measure, and an immense loss to the nation. I am satisfied to the amount of one half the value of all the corn that has been exported. 'Tis therefore incredibly amazing, that so many men of good sense, (self-interest apart) should not be able to see the ruinous effects which attend it; which are as clear as demonstration can make any thing.

Corn of all sorts, but particularly wheat, is the most improper article in the world to give a bounty upon. If any is worthy of being named with it, it is *wool*; but even that is not equal to wheat; though should a bounty be given on the exportation of wool, I am persuaded there is not a man in England, but would proclaim it a most execrable measure; as indeed it would, but not so much so as wheat.

Wheat is the staple article of our subsistence, the article upon which the
very

very being of our whole people depend. An article which is in universal demand, is very plentiful and cheap in prosperous years; yet not so, but all Europe severely feel the want of it at particular times, and those at no very great distance from each other. An article that may be kept many years without the least injury to it, and therefore, tho' the price may continue low several years, a time will soon come which will amply reward the keeper for rent, interest of money, and patience. A redundancy therefore is never to be feared; but always to be desired; for the history of all former times clearly shew, that once in three or four years, often the next year, from the badness of seasons, or some unforeseen cause, the demand either for at home or abroad has been so much increased, as to have taken off the whole of our surplus corn without the aid of a bounty, and at a great advance of price. From these observations it clearly follows, that all the money paid for bounty, which of late years has amounted to from two to three hundred thousand pounds per annum, has most im-

politically been taken out of the pockets of natives and given to foreigners, besides selling a most essential article on the very lowest terms, which often might have been sold at double the money. Besides putting it in the power of our rivals in trade to manufacture goods cheaper, and consequently to undersell us in every market we go to. Besides rendering ourselves dependent on them for the first and most necessary article of life, which a strange mistaken policy had hastened our parting with, at the expence of from £ 20. to £ 30. per cent. on the value.

The only reason which deserves the least notice that I ever heard assigned by the advocates for a bounty, is, that it encourages the farmer to sow more wheat than he otherwise would do; which increases the quantity, and reduces the price below what it otherwise would be, notwithstanding the great quantities which have been exported. But this is a conclusion drawn by the advocates of bounty from a cause, which they

they think must produce such an effect; and not from experience and matter of fact. My acquaintance with farmers in different parts, is of long standing; and my observation and experience directly contradict the above conclusion. Indeed it is exceedingly absurd to suppose, that farmers in general would not endeavour to make the most of the estates they rent, whether there be, or be not a bounty; and I believe nine out of ten of them, take the nation through, neither know or care when the bounty takes place, and when not. A good farmer ever follows that round of crops, which his reason, experience, or both have taught him is best suited to the nature, condition, and circumstance of his lands; and those who have less judgment, and skill, are as inflexibly attached to the customary practice of the country, which is deemed infallibly the best; because practised by their fathers and grandfathers with success. If at any time any of them are prevailed upon to depart from the usual course of cropping their lands, as suppose when wheat sells
for

for 6s. or 7s. a bushel, they may be tempted to plant a field with wheat instead of some other grain, which however seldom answers expectation, when not well suited to it. But to suppose farmers in general plant more wheat, because there is a bounty to encourage exportation, unless you take into the supposition that exportation greatly enhances the price, is an absurd supposition, founded merely in imagination, being repugnant to the constant usage, and practice of farmers.

I have said there is not in the world an article so improper as wheat, to encourage the exportation of; not even excepting wool. The latter would utterly destroy our foreign trade, in the manufactures made of that important article, and denote a folly of the first magnitude; but the former strikes at the very support and means of existence. When a nation has divested itself of so valuable, so essential a treasure; 'tis not for it to say, we will raise still a greater abundance; we may as well pretend
to

to govern the elements, as command a crop; the best concerted means, and most sanguine expectations, too frequently end in sorrowful disappointment and distress. But were two millions to be given in bounties to procure the exportation of six millions of manufactures, made from materials of our own growth, here would be a real acquisition of national wealth to the amount of four millions, not a shilling of which need be parted with again, unless extravagance and folly made it necessary. But should the same sum be received for wheat exported; the nation *must* not only give that sum back again for the same quantity, but ten times that sum if necessity required it; for no man would starve with a guinea in his pocket, whilst a guinea would purchase a pound of bread.

Let any one attend to the history of the corn trade from the time the bounty took place, and he will readily perceive there has been a constant succession of plenty and scarcity, cheapness and dear-
ness;

ness; that the larger the quantity exported, the higher the advance of price in three or four years, and sometimes much sooner; that soon after such exports, the same corn might have been sold at a much higher price without any bounty; that to prevent the scarcity occasioned by the bounty from increasing upon us, the legislature has at such times judged it proper to prohibit all exportation, even without a bounty; and that not being always found sufficient, it has been obliged to open the ports, and permit importation, duty free; which has been done with a loss of from £ 120 to £ 150 per cent. Is it not then truly amazing, that a measure which plainly turns *plenty*, one of the greatest blessings we know, into *scarcity*, and *want*, one of the greatest curses; should have so much as a single advocate to recommend it? While the present bounty subsists; a plentiful corn harvest here is a blessing to our neighbours; but a curse upon ourselves. Should the proposed modus of 8s. per quarter bounty take place, both the one, and the other
would

would be augmented. For the greater the plenty, the lower the price; consequently the higher the proportion of the bounty to the value of the corn, and the greater the inducement to export; which unavoidably advances prices at home, and lowers them abroad; and finally produces scarcity; a truth confirmed by all past experience. A most barbarous policy this, which starves our own people to provide for the subjects of our most dangerous rivals in trade; feeding them at half the price we do our own, and as bounties are paid by taxes laid on the people, subjecting them to pay towards the subsistence of the very manufacturers abroad, who at the same time rob them of their bread and their employment.

It cannot then be a matter of doubt, or surprize to what cause to assign scarcity, and the high price of bread corn at particular times. A bounty ever has, and 'tis morally certain ever will produce that lamentable effect, so long

as such a strange and destructive measure shall exist.

If England should be blest with several propitious seasons, and corn thereby rendered very cheap, and it should be apprehended necessary to do something to encourage planting more corn under such circumstance, than which nothing can be more repugnant to reason and experience, instead of paying annually £ 300,000 bounty at the present mode, or half a million at the mode now proposed; let government bestow half a million annually to be expended in the purchase of corn while it continues cheap, to be laid up 'till the price advances to 4s. 6d. or 5s. per bushel; and then sold out for consumption; that would supply a sufficiency at a medium price, and at the same time that it provided so comfortably for the people, it would provide a fund sufficient to answer the same purpose in all future times, without any fresh advance or future expence to government. We then should always have a stock in hand, sufficient

sufficient to secure us from the sad effects of scarcity; and to supply the necessities of our neighbours, whenever prices rendered such a trade inviting. Such a measure would not only be a saving to the nation of the vast sums of money usually paid in bounties, and a discouragement to those who oppose us in trade; but would enable us to receive as much money we used to do, and for about one half the quantity.

From corn, the author proceeds to the means of encouraging the produce, and what he calls the *elevation* of cattle, sheep, and the smaller articles of sustenance; as pigs, geese, poultry, &c. These smaller articles having been greatly discouraged (he says, p. 15.) by two sorts of improvement lately become very much in vogue among us; viz. the consolidating small farms into great ones, and inclosing commons. Why he includes pigs and butter among the small articles I cannot apprehend, nor why he supposes the produce of them more particularly proper to small farms, is, I

think, equally unaccountable. Small farms may produce a small quantity of either for the use of the family, and perhaps a little to spare; a small farm may *elevate*, as he calls it, two or three pigs a year; but they must be middling farms at least, which do any thing considerable towards supplying markets with either. However, it must be allowed the uniting small farms, and of them making large ones is a most pernicious practice, attended with many evils greatly detrimental to the public; and I am persuaded eventually so to the gentlemen who are the owners of such estates; of which some of them begin to be sensible. I know one who at this time is building a farm house on the same spot, where his father a few years since pulled a very good one down to unite the lands to another farm. And I knew another in Hampshire, who let an estate for £ 300. per annum, upon which the farmer failed; he has since divided it into three farms, and now lets them for £ 500. per annum. And they all three get money upon them. And I know

know some divisions are now making in Dorsetshire, and I am not without hope that many others will follow the example. It has of late years been fashionable to decry small farms; but there are few farms let for £ 1000 per annum, which if properly divided into ten or fifteen would not as readily let for £ 1500. People are much divided in opinion with respect to what may properly be called a small farm; but I lay it down for a certain rule, that no farm is so small as to be unprofitable, either to the farmer or the community, if 'tis large enough to find full employment for himself and his family.

When a large estate is divided into small farms, every part of it is in a state of improvement. Each farmer living upon the spot, is daily making manure; which may be conveniently bestowed on any part of his farm; but it is not so in a very large farm; some of the lands are necessarily too remote to be manured, but at too heavy an expence; the whole of the manure is therefore

therefore bestowed on the lands that lay contiguous to, or near the yard, and by far the greater part continues a mere sheep walk, or moor for depasturing cattle in the summer months. The farmer has it for next to nothing, it therefore is neither for his interest, nor convenience to attempt to improve it.

But the uniting small farms has a most pernicious effect on the community, as it depopulates the country by driving out of it the most valuable part of its inhabitants; and forcing them to seek their bread in inglorious servitude; which too frequently leads to their ruin. It deprives the public of that rank of its useful members, which bring them seasonable supplies of the necessaries of life; these are the first which come to market; their narrow circumstances will not permit them to lay by in hopes of an advance of price. Harvest is no sooner ended, than they set to thrashing, and to market; and thus they continue to do, 'till their little stock is exhausted. Whereas the
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man who monopolizes the land, will as far as 'tis in his power monopolize its produce too, to the great detriment of society. 'Tis true his avarice is often too hard for his prudence, he falls in his own snare, and is punished with disappointment and loss; but this makes no amends to the abused public, from whom he has unrighteously withheld what would have been highly useful to them, and profitable to himself. But having had occasion to treat this subject more fully in another place I forbear.

The author leads us next to speak of inclosures, these he thinks may be useful in future, but occasions scarcity rather at present. His reasoning on this subject seems to me very deficient. The proprietors converting pasturage to tillage, or tillage to pasturage, cannot be any disadvantage to the public, for whatever conduces to the interest of the first must ultimately to the latter; and if they should refuse to feed their sheep, or suckle their lambs on the lands they have lately inclosed (and converted from tillage

tillage to pasture) till the hedges are grown out of the way of the cattle, they can surely continue them in tillage to as great advantage at least, as they did before they were inclosed; how then could the neighbourhood suffer; but 'tis strange any one could think of converting of them to a use die could not put them to for some years to come. ^{It must have been highly useful to them} It must be allowed the value of land is greatly increased by being inclosed, which can only be in proportion to its utility to the public; or rather, the value of land cannot be advanced to the owner, but the public will ultimately share the advantages. Inclosing land therefore must be allowed to be a very great improvement, in which the public is much concerned. There are however many weighty objections to it, and many instances where the poor inhabitants who had a right, have been great sufferers. But that is by no means owing to inclosing as such; but to the impolitic at least, if not unjust mode of doing it. There are instances where the expences attending

attending inclosing has been so high, as to render it impracticable for the poorer inhabitants to pay their quota of the expence, they have therefore lost their share, or sold it for a mere trifle; and the better sort have owned, they could have purchased the fee simple of as much land of equal goodness for less money. The poor inhabitants of such places, do not then complain of inclosing, and object to it without reason; they are stript of their constitutional dues, without an equivalent, often without the least consideration. One would imagine the legislature would want no motive to induce them, to countenance and promote any measure after being convinced of its public utility. All works that respect the good of the public, should be executed without fee, reward or expence, and not be defeated by the fees and extravagant expences of Commissioners, &c.—If each of such poor commoners had to their share an acre or two of land at no expence, but that of inclosing; which would be affected by their own labour; if it was but half

an acre, or even but a quarter of an acre, 'twould be of vast use to them; as upon such a small spot an industrious man at leisure times might raise roots, and vegetables sufficient for his family, besides much to spare towards rearing a pig or two, and some poultry. I have known many poor workmen in villages, who would have given any thing for a few rods of ground for the purposes, who could not be indulged at any rate. I heartily wish however, every poor villager and cottager had such a small pittance of land, as a quarter or half an acre annexed to his dwelling, 'twould be a great help towards supporting his family, and an advantage to the public too. Put it in the power of such people to raise pigs, geese, and poultry, and they will stand in need of no other encouragement, than the ready demand, and current price those commodities will yield at the nearest market.

The author before he concludes, gives a caution not to press down the price of provisions too low, which appears

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to be a piece of advice perfectly unnecessary. 'Twould have been well however, if this relates to any art, or management he is master of, that he had explained it to the public. There is no danger at present of pressing them down too low, nor much hope of pressing them low enough to remedy the evils produced by a general scarcity. I am afraid the root of the evil lies much deeper than is generally apprehended. Luxury is amazingly increased, with which consumption keeps even pace; but it not being in the power of man to make produce equal thereto, scarcity is the inevitable consequence, for which there is no possible remedy, without a general reformation in the manners of the people, and a thorough establishment of a permanent *frugality*. But of this more hereafter.

Mr. Moore, who has obliged the public with his thoughts on this subject, imputes the present high price of provisions to real scarcity, and thinks such scarcity is occasioned by the unnecessary

breed of horses. In support of this opinion, he presents you with a table, shewing the number of sheep and black cattle sold at Smith-field market for the last forty years, from whence it appears, that, however the buildings in the metropolis, and the inhabitants have increased, no material increase has taken place in the consumption of butcher's meat. If Mr. Moore can shew this to be demonstratively certain, he will prove a fact of infinitely more consequence to the happiness of the community, than any thing he undertook to prove. For if the number of inhabitants are greatly increased, (as doubtless they are) and the consumption of butcher's meat is not increased in any degree of proportion thereto, this will amount to a proof, that *luxury*, in this very considerable article is upon the decline, and giving way to frugality; but I am much afraid this is a mistake, and that the great source of scarcity and high prices, is the great increase of consumption beyond a possibility of furnishing adequate supplies; and I am told by persons whose
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occupations lead to the knowledge of the present state of Smith-field market, that his table notwithstanding his opinion of its being indisputably authentic, is exceedingly defective, and very far short of the real number of cattle annually sold there. Let any man consider the change of manners there has been within these forty years, and without table or calculation, he cannot help perceiving that the consumption of butcher's meat must have been vastly increased, even without an increase of inhabitants, and that 'tis morally impossible it should be otherwise.

Whatever increases the consumption of produce, certainly enhances the price of provisions: and therefore Mr. Moore is certainly right *in part*, that the keeping such a vast number of useless horses is one means of raising, and keeping up the price of provisions; and 'tis great pity, but the people who keep horses merely for pleasure were subject to a tax, as an equivalent to the public for the injury it sustained. His reasoning about

about the mode of supplying Smithfield with cattle, &c. and the probability or improbability of what graziers, dealers and jobbers would do, or not do, is very little to the purpose. All these together with the falemen and carcase butchers may be all very useful in their way, provided no artifice was made use of to produce an artificial scarcity. This Mr. Moore thinks impracticable; but he either is not well informed concerning this business, or he purposely avoids coming to the point, by answering objections of no weight, if ever made, and taking no notice of others, which are thought unanswerable.

To set this matter in a clear light, it is necessary to observe, that the term *graziers* stands for two men, whose practice and employment are very different. The first is properly a farming grazier, whose business is to rear or fat cattle fit for the market, and in this sense most farmers are more or less so. The other may be called a trading, or dealing grazier, whose business is to frequent

frequent fairs and markets, and buy up cattle in large quantities, or pick them up at the farms of the farmer as he can meet with them. It is usual for the first of these to employ a drover to drive their cattle to market, and 'tis common for them to have five or six from one, three or four from another, and so on to the amount of from ten to twenty or thirty in a drove; these are brought to Smith-field, and committed to the care of a salesman to be disposed of for the benefit of the owner. This is done without the least artifice to affect the price, all is natural and right, and the beast sold at a fair market price. But the business of a trading grazier, is carried on upon principles totally different. Many of them are men of very opulent fortunes, who as was said before, buy up cattle in great numbers, are provided with marshes and fields on every side of the town to twenty miles distance. They are intimately acquainted with the salesmen, and carcass butchers, and have a pretty good previous knowledge of what is to be expected at market, by which
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means being but at a few hours distance, can either send or not send to market, as they judge most conducive to their interest; and having ingrossed so large a number, have it in their power to keep up the prices to what height they please, particularly in dear times, there being then nothing to prevent them. This possibly may be treated as fabulous, or chimerical; but I aver, I have even known sheep and cattle more than once, purchased by a grazier in Smithfield, and sent ten or a dozen miles into the country to be fed there, 'till an advance of price might render it advantageous to drive them to, and resell them in the same market. I am therefore clearly of opinion, notwithstanding any reason Mr. Moore has shewn to the contrary, or any other he has not yet urged, that these practices have a certain and unavoidable tendency to advance the price of butcher's meat.

I remember having seen somewhere, a proposal for a bill to limit the purchase of cattle and sheep to a small number,

number, I think it is very possible to contrive a scheme of this sort, which would effectually prevent the practice here complained of. And now we are upon the subject of male-practice, I will consider the state of the trade respecting butter and cheese. The price of butter is extravagantly high; but that of cheese is surprizingly so. This does not seem to be so much the effect of avarice in the dealers therein, as a bad custom in the manner of buying, which seems to be founded in envy.

The usual method of buying up cheese is by factors, who go round among the dairies, and buy up all that is made in the year at a price agreed on; this is frequently done before the cheese is made, as they are acquainted with the probable quality of the cheese from the character of the dairy. As cheese is an article always in demand, the factor is morally certain, the more he buys, the larger will be his commissions. This raises a kind of emulation, or rather envy among the factors, who are fre-

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quently pressing the dairy men for a price, which is commonly above what 'twas the preceding year. The price for the whole year being agreed, let the quantity made be as great as you please, and a real plenty succeed, it has not the least effect upon the price, that being fixed before. Whereas were the dairy men obliged to bring their cheese to market, or fairs, as was the custom formerly, the price would fluctuate and be sometimes high, sometimes low, as the quantity might happen to be, in proportion to the number and the demand of the buyers. As this trade of late years has been managed, the price has been continually advancing, 'till it has considerably more than doubled its price, in little more than twenty years. An event altogether as surprizing to the makers, as to the consumers, a pleasing, but unaccountable circumstance to them.

But should the legislature think proper to interpose and prevent this forestalling practice of the factors, oblige the

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the dairy men to bring their cheese to markets or fairs to be there exposed openly and fairly: the prices would then be sometimes higher, sometimes lower as it happened to be scarce, or plenty, and not uniformly dear, and upon the advance, as it has been for many years past.

The case of butter is pretty similar to this, as may appear by the following relation. I lately happened to be at Axminster in Devonshire, where I saw a great many small tubs of butter, which I was told were designed for London. I happened to fall into company with a gentleman like farmer of whom I enquired if butter was plenty or dear, he said 'twas plenty enough, but very dear; I observed that was rather strange, he said 'twas nevertheless true. I asked what might be the price? He replied, I have known good butter sold in this place at 3s. per dozen, which is our method of selling, 3s. 6d. at that time was a middle price, and four shillings was thought very dear; now the cur-

rent price is 7s. and 4d. and one dairy said he, has sold this year for 7s. and 8d. I asked if that dairy was better than the rest, he said not at all; but you must understand that the dealers in London, either come or send down, and agree for all the butter made at any dairy in the year. Now this was a dealer who had not usually bought in this country; he applied first to one, and then to another; but nobody would sell from an old chapman without a reason, at length he found he must advance or do no business; he therefore advanced four pence a dozen, and agreed for all the butter made from Christmas 1771 to the same time 1772.—Now butter and cheese being by such means sold at a certain fixed price, even before 'tis made; should they become ever so plentiful, it affects not the price, for being all ingrossed at a high price, the purchasers will sell accordingly, and this being continued from year to year, 'tis impossible the price should fall.

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The cause of dearness in those articles being clearly discovered and explained, one would imagine an easy remedy might be found. Nothing more seems necessary than to oblige the growers and makers of such commodities, to sell them at a fair open market, at a price to be agreed at the time of such sale, and not before, upon such penalties as might be thought sufficient to enforce a ready and full compliance with the laws, that might be enacted for that purpose.

The case would be just the same in respect to wheat, and all other grain, if the quantity, value and universality did not render it impracticable. Suppose a number of jobbers should combine together, and raise a capital sufficient to purchase all the wheat in England, it being a plentiful year, and the current price only three shillings a bushel; but to succeed in their scheme they purchase all they can at four; this being done, they fix their selling price at six. Now what is to be done? bread must
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be had, and therefore if wheat is not to be purchased under six shillings per bushel, or even at seven, that price must be given. This is precisely the case with respect to butter and cheese; the first might have been bought at 4s. per dozen, and the latter at 30s. per hundred, with as much satisfaction to the dairyman as now 7s. 4d. is paid for butter, and between 40s. and 50s. for cheese; and indeed there seems to be no bounds to the advance of prices under this mode of management; for in these articles, plenty and scarcity are quite out of the question, tho' they are the true and only natural and genuine causes of cheapness and dearth; but herein the order of nature is subverted, and overruled, by people who make a gain of what distresses and ruins the rest of the community.

To prevent the high prices of butcher's meat, some are for tying the farmers up to rules for encreasing their stock of cattle; but I have seen nothing on this head, which has been worth
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the least regard. A farmer always means to serve his own interest in the best manner he can, and is certainly the best judge of what his lands will maintain; therefore to prescribe general rules, for his particular conduct, is exceedingly absurd, and would injure the public interest through the side of the farmer.

We must, however, carefully distinguish between the natural, or providential causes of scarcity, and those which are the effects of either the folly or wickedness of man. To the first it is our duty to submit with a becoming patience and resignation, and to conduct ourselves with a moderation, and frugality, suited to our indigence and distress. These are evils 'tis equally out of our power to foresee, prevent or remedy. We cannot command a suitable season for sowing, we cannot protect the tender root from the severe frosts of winter, from the cutting winds of spring, from the drought of summer, from hasty rains that rob the bloom of its *farina* necessary to fecundate the grain, and
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bring it to maturity, from pestilential blasts that fill the ear with insects, which devour the corn even when fully grown; nor, lastly, from autumnal rains, which after all prevents a timely harvest. No more is it in the power of man to preserve the flock from the scab, or rot, nor the horned cattle from the epidemic disease, which makes such a horrid havoc among them. How careful then should we be to lay up a competent stock of corn in a plentiful year, when we don't know, but the awful visitations of the next, may render every grain necessary for our support? How wretched then must be the policy of a people, who under the notion of cultivating a beneficial trade, give a bounty of from twenty to twenty-five per cent. to encourage the exportation of an article essential to subsistence, in June, which at Christmas perhaps they must purchase again, at a double price, or any price it can be bought at, or the people must starve for want of bread. There is but one possible way of accounting for this strange infatuation,

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consistently with the principles of social honour and honesty. Some writers of considerable abilities maintain, (but *ex fide aliorum*, as they confess) that in a propitious year England grows as much wheat in one year, as it consumes in four; but this is a notion as wild and extravagant as ever entered the mind of man. From the next exact accounts it appears, that the annual medium produce of wheat in England is only equal to about fourteen months consumption at most. To this unaccountable error I impute the sanguine defence of the bounty; for to encourage that measure at the extravagant expence of £ 20 per cent. with so poor a stock of an article on hand essentially necessary to the support of our people, sufficient to last only a few months, is perfectly irreconcilable to the most common ideas and obvious principles of daily œconomy, and therefore unworthy of the meanest and most common understanding.

Having enumerated the natural causes of a scarcity of provisions, which it is

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not in the power of man to prevent a remedy: I come next to the enumeration of those causes which depend upon the management of ourselves, and are the means of introducing an artificial scarcity, as hath already been clearly demonstrated. The first article I shall mention is wheat, which it is abundantly evident from what has been said, can never be immoderately scarce or dear, in this nation, unless it is rendered so by means of a bounty. According to the above account, the proportion of our consumption, to the quantity we grow is such, that in about six years we should have a surplus, or stock equal to one year's consumption. Now as all other countries are liable to the same natural causes of scarcity and want as we are, and perhaps some of them much more so, 'twill be in our power to assist them with what we can conveniently spare, which would be a seasonable relieve to them, and on such natural principles, a very lucrative branch of trade to us. A trade, which would bring us in a very large sum of money,

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perhaps more than our exports amount to at the expence of the bounty, without subjecting us to the many difficulties and distresses, mobbings and insurrections we now so frequently suffer thereby.

The next article I shall mention is butcher's meat; an artificial scarcity is procured in this article, by the sinister practice of the trading grazier, who ingrosses cattle, and feed the London market, &c. as best suits his interest, this is an evil which is not to be remedied but by parliamentary authority.

A scarcity in the articles of butter and cheese, is effected by the management and artifice of the factors and dealers in those commodities; who, as hath been shewn, contract for a whole year's making at a fixed price, and having by such means ingrossed the whole, fix an arbitrary value on the same, and prevents the advantages the community is entitled to by the blessings of plenty bestowed by providence. In this case

plenty when it happens, is not taken into consideration nor suffered to operate. Whether the same dairy produces one hundred weight of butter weekly or two, is nothing to the purpose, the whole is agreed for at a certain price; the dealers settle their profits to their own minds, and the consumers *must* comply with their demands, or go without it. Thus the prices of the articles annually increase, without the least foundation in the reason and nature of things. Now this is not the case in any sort of corn, or other commodity which comes openly and fairly to market, without first passing through the hands of dealers and jobbers. Such articles fluctuate in their prices, and are low or high in proportion as plenty, or scarcity happen to prevail. For redressing these evils also, we must look up to, and beg the aid of the legislature.

There is another cause which acts generally in advancing the price of provisions, which is the immoderate consumption of corn and hay, occasioned by

by the almost infinite number of horses which are now kept for pleasure. A species of luxury as ruinous in its consequences to individuals, as pernicious in its effects to the community; and therefore loudly calls for redress. A law to subject the owners of such horses to a good round tax, would perhaps be one of the most salutary kind. The quantity of hay and corn used for this purpose would rear and fatten an incredible number of cattle, and could not fail of greatly reducing the price of butcher's meat, pork, and bacon. Besides, it would operate most beneficially in respect to thousands, by restraining them from an expence, which is not only unnecessary, but which is by no means suited to their circumstance and income. Fashion and example are greatly an over match for reason and œconomy, and 'tis not the least among the acts of human policy, for a state to constrain its subjects by prudential laws to act more wisely, and be happier than they would if left to carve for themselves. And if all our taxes were levied with this view, as
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far as the nature and fitness of things would permit, perhaps there would be less room for all that clamour and complaint, which now so generally prevail.

There is another general cause of the high price of provisions, which it is to be feared is powerful enough to counteract every means and endeavour to a very considerable reduction of prices; which is the vast increase of consumption, occasioned by that amazing extension of luxury which so universally obtains. By it consumption may be so augmented, as to exceed the utmost stretch of the most industrious abilities. Consumption may by the arts of luxury be carried beyond all bounds, and high prices must unavoidably follow; but produce by prudent means the most indefatigable, and successful, can only reach to a certain degree, and therefore luxury may render reduction of prices in the essential articles of life absolutely impossible.

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Here government has an opportunity of shewing that parental regard it should have for the permanent happiness of its subjects; of displaying that kindness and goodness, and exerting that power, which appears now necessary to restrain them from pursuing the means of ruin to themselves and their posterity; of establishing a throne in the minds and affections of the people, which can never be effaced or removed.

Before I conclude, I will beg leave to make a few observations on the subscriptions which have been lately made, especially in the metropolis, with the laudable view of reducing the high price of butcher's meat for the benefit of the industrious poor. These beneficial undertakings were founded upon certain apprehensions, that the price of meat was advanced to an unnecessary height, by the artifice and unfair contrivance of the several dealers, concerned in the purchase and sale of the same; therefore to render the undertaking as useful as may be, perhaps it may be proper

proper to avoid all dealing and concern with all who may have been any way employed or interested therein. The following method of carrying this plan into execution is recommended to the consideration of the committee.

That a grass farm, or meadows of an extent sufficient to depasture a very considerable number of sheep and horned cattle, be provided within twenty miles distance from the city; or such a distance as may be an easy days journey. That a sufficient number of proper persons are employed, to attend the fairs and markets in the breeding and fatting countries, to buy up at first hand sheep and cattle at the lowest prices, which are from time to time to be sent up to the farms, or lands provided for their reception, where they are to be kept 'till the demands of the society require them to be sent up, twice or thrice a week, to be killed for use. By this means the gains made by the several hands through which they necessarily pass will be saved, which must be considerable,

siderable, although no sinister practice should have been used to advance the same. The chief difficulty attending this business is to procure proper persons to manage and conduct it. Persons of judgment, industry and fidelity, all which are necessary to make the scheme answer its intended utility. This I conceive is the only true and practicable method of procuring sheep, and beast upon the lowest terms, which is absolutely necessary to make it answer the purpose intended.

And now I may venture to congratulate the public on the happy prospect of more moderate prices in that most essential article of our food, viz. wheat. The Parliament at length seem to be in possession of this necessary truth; that a bounty is in the highest degree detrimental to the interest of this country. This I conclude, from seeing a bill respecting the importation, and exportation of corn, having been read a first time, and ordered to be

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printed. The regulations are so agreeable to what I have long wished and recommended, that should the said bill be passed into a law, I have not the least doubt but it will answer beyond the most sanguine expectation.

By these regulations, it is proposed,

1st, That the present duties upon wheat, and wheat flower imported into this Kingdom, when wheat is at or above 48s. per quarter shall cease. 2dly, That the duties upon rye imported, when the price of it here is at or above 32s. per quarter shall cease. 3dly, That a duty of 6d. per quarter be laid upon all wheat imported, when the price of wheat here shall be at or above 48s. per quarter. 4thly, That a duty of 2d. per hundred weight, be laid upon all wheat flour imported, when the price of wheat here shall be at or above 48s. per quarter. 5thly, That a duty of 3d. per quarter be laid upon rye imported, when the price of it shall be

be at or above 28s. per quarter. 6thly, That the exportation of wheat, wheat meal, and wheat flour, when the price of wheat shall be at 44s. per quarter be prohibited. 7thly, That the exportation of wheat, meal, and flour, when the price of wheat shall be under 44s. per quarter be permitted. 8thly, That the exportation of rye, when it shall be at 28s. per quarter be prohibited. 9thly, That for and upon all wheat, flour, and rye imported, and afterwards exported, shall be drawn back all duties, paid on the importation of them. 10thly, And that the importation of wheat, wheat flour, rye, and rye meal, be admitted for a limited time.

By this bill ample encouragement is given to the farmer equal to his wish and desire, a permission to export wheat, while the price keeps under 5s. 6d. a bushel, will be sufficient to keep it up at a moderate price, and a permission to import when it shall reach 6s. per bushel, will keep it below an immoderate

dear price, which will afford much relief and satisfaction to the labouring workman and manufacturer. I only wish the Legislature may give it a fair trial for one seven years, and I have not the least doubt but a bounty on the exportation of wheat, will be banished this Kingdom for ever.



F I N I S.

